

CONTAINING
A *Particular* Account of the *Dangers*
to be apprehended from the present *Inva-*
sion; and the *Measures* necessary for our
Safety and Preservation.

Pro Aris & Focis.

L O N D O N:

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THE
HISTORICAL
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ATLAS

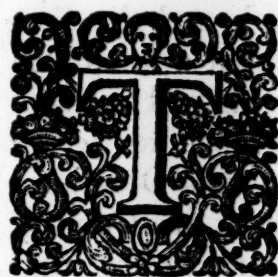


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A
BRIEF and TRUE
REPRESENTATION
OF THE
POSTURE
OF OUR
AFFAIRS, &c.



THE Turn which Affairs have taken in this Island, within a few Weeks, has been so *surprizing* and *unexpected*; and is at the same Time so *interesting* and *important* to all True Britons, and Lovers of their Country, that it is needless to offer any Apology for attempting

ing to represent the present Posture of our Affairs, with an Endeavour to lay open the *Designs* which we justly apprehend are formed against us by our Enemies; and to point out the Measures that are necessary to be pursued by us, for our own Safety and Preservation.

It cannot be expected, that a Treatise on this Subject, by a private Writer, should exhibit the *whole* Plan contrived by *Foreign Princes*, in Conjunction with the *Disaffected at Home*; and foretell at what *Times* and in what *Places* the several *Particulars* of the Conspiracy will be carried into Execution.—It is enough that there are *some* Parts of the present Design so *evident* and *notorious*, the *general* Views and Intentions of the Enemy are *so far* understood, and the *Consequences* so discernible, that a small Degree of Reflexion may suggest *certain* Observations that are proper for *every one of us* to make upon this Occasion; and such as every Lover of his Country would be glad to recommend to *some* that perhaps do not sufficiently *regard* (and *attend to*) them.

We

We are now convinced of a Fact, too long disbelieved, and too little regarded, that the Son of a Popish Pretender to the Crown of these Kingdoms is at the Head of an Army, to dispute his Majesty's Title, and consequently to deny the Power of Parliaments to settle and limit the Succession to the Crown, and to subvert an Establishment, under which the Nation has flourished near three-score Years.

It is impossible but that an Attempt of this Nature should be productive of the most fatal Consequences: The *bad* Effects of it *begin* to operate and be felt by us: It has *already* involved *Great-Britain* in a CIVIL WAR; *much* Blood *has* been shed, and much *more* is *like* to be before it can be extinguished. It has obliged the Government to call Home those Troops, for *our own Defence*, which were employ'd Abroad in opposing the *ambitious* and *unjust* Enterprizes of *France*: And if *no other* Inconvenience were to follow from it, this SINGLE Turn in our Affairs has done unspeakable

able *Mischief* to the *true Interest* of *Great-Britain*.

But this Misfortune is not come *alone*: The Rebellion raised at Home, which naturally threatens an *Invasion* from Abroad, requires such Precautions to be taken on our Side, as affect us in *another* and a very *sensible* Part. It proves a great Obstruction to the Operations of our *Naval* Strength, and the *Uses* it should be applied to for the publick Good. Powerful Squadrons must be detained to *guard our own Coasts*, which otherwise might have greatly *distressed*, and perhaps *totally DESTROYED* the (*almost ruined*) *Trade of France*, alarmed all their *Colonies and Settlements Abroad*, and reduced more of 'em to the Condition of *Cape Breton*; while our own *Trade and Plantations* would have been proportionably in a more advantageous and flourishing Condition.

The Fruit which our *Enemies the French* have *already* reaped from the Commotions in the North, administers just Ground of *Suspicion*, that the Seeds of them were *sown* and *grew up* under *their*

their Influence and Direction. — But we have *more* than Suspensions, we have undeniable *Evidence* that the Son of the Pretender and his Adherents embarked in Vessels belonging to the *French*, to be transported into this Island; and the Attendance of a *French* Man of War, of uncommon Force, stored with Ammunition and Provisions necessary for a Rebellion, unquestionably *proves*, that the Government of *that* Nation *knew* of and *conducted* the Design.

The Commander of the *Elizabeth* acted as he was ordered to do by AUTHORITY; and had not a brave *English* Officer, engaged him with the greatest Valour and Resolution, and with *so* good *Effect*, as to oblige him to return to his own Ports, the Rebels in Scotland had been more formidable and better furnish'd with Warlike Ordnance, than they are at present.

If after this there remains any Doubt, whether they *excited* the present Rebellion, let us reflect upon the next Step which they took, a very publick and undeniable one, to disable the Government
from

from *suppressing* it. In the *Beginning* of the present Troubles, the *British* Envoy having demanded of the States, the 6000 Troops, which they are bound by Treaty to furnish us with, the *Abbé de la Ville* presented a Memorial to them, declaring, that "It was with REGRET his most *Christian* Majesty saw their High Mightinesses taking *such* a Step, and thereby obliging him to obtain *Satisfaction* for it, either by *Reprizals* or *otherwise*."

This Memorial indeed was colour'd with the Pretence of the States having infringed the Capitulation of *Tournay*: But the *Answer* of the States took off the *Disguise*, shewing that Pretence to be *groundless*, and consequently the *true* Intention of the *French*, in this Proceeding, appears to have been *really* the same as is here assigned for it.

These Facts, so visible to every *impartial* Eye, leave no Room to doubt of the Intelligence received, that the *Rebels* themselves declare, that they shall soon be assisted by a large Body of *French* and *Irish*. Such Assurances have, in all Probability, been given them; and for once it will

not

not be for want of *INCLINATION* to *fulfill* their *Engagements*, if the *French* perform them not. We must not be so sanguine, or rather so infatuated, to hope they will not lend a helping Hand to embroil and ruin our Affairs, if it is in their Power; and what can put it out of their Power, but the Blessing of Providence upon the Counsels of the Government, and the Strength and Vigilance of the *British* Fleet?

It is natural and reasonable to expect, that Powers at War will embrace every Opportunity to disturb and hurt their Adversary. As we are engaged in War with the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*, we ought in Reason to expect an Invasion from either, or from both of these Powers united, whenever they judge such an Attempt practicable, and conducive to their Interest. This clearly shews what our Apprehensions ought to be, and how lively the Sense of our Danger, at this critical juncture, when our Differences amongst ourselves afford too fair and favourable an Opportunity for invading us; and the Steps, which have been taken, are mani-

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fest Indications of *farther* and *deeper* Designs concerted for our *Ruin*.

That there is an inseparable Dependence of the *Religion, Liberties, and Trade of Great-Britain*, upon the *Continuance* of our present Constitution; and that the greatest *Advantages* will naturally result to the Interests of *France*, by its *Subversion*, are as certain Consequences as any that can well be proposed; and though the Enemy should think it *prudent* for them, and their Abettors, to *conceal* or even to *deny* their Resolutions to deprive us of our *Civil Rights*, and to destroy the *Protestant Religion*, as well as the *Protestant Succession*, in this Realm; yet their *Actions* (their former Conduct, and the Course they are taking at present, and have so lately taken) are convincing Proofs and unanswerable *Witnesses*, what we ought to believe, and what to expect at their Hands.

The *French* are too subtle Politicians; they *understand* and *pursue* their own Interest too well, to exert themselves as they have done, and are preparing to do, for the Sake of Promoting the Cause of
any

any *Prince*, or of any *Nation* in the World, but THEMSELVES. This Conclusion therefore we may draw, with undoubted Certainty, that in a Case of Competitors, for this Crown and Government, every True *Briton*, and Friend to his Country, may lay it down as a *general Rule* for his Conduct, *not* to espouse *that Party*, which is *raised* and *supported* by the Assistance of FRANCE.

To this may be added *another* Consideration, farther inciting *us* to take the *contrary Part* to *them*; and that is, *their Manner* of treating those Princes and States, who have been so unwary as to be seduced into a Concurrence and Combination with them. What Ally have they not *forsaken* and *deserted* in Times of *Danger*, where *their own* immediate Interest was *not much* concerned? When were they known to *keep their Faith*, or to *observe* the most solemn Treaties, when a *hopeful Prospect* appeared of gaining *some Advantage* by the *Violation* of them? Few are so ignorant of what has been lately transacted in the *German Empire*; of their having guaranteed the *Pragmatick Sanction*, and of their Deal-

ings with the Elector of *Bavaria* and the King of *Prussia*, to need *Instances* of the *Treachery* and *Prevarication* of the *French* to be pointed out to them.

But in our own Case, admitting that they would act with unusual *Sincerity*; that having brought over an Army, and advanced that Person to the Throne, whose Title to it they esteemed the most just; they would then kindly withdraw their Forces, do us no farther Injury, nor expect any Advantage to themselves for their Service, but leave us to manage our own Affairs: Even upon this *impolitick* Supposition, what must become of us, when we should be brought under Subjection to a Prince, whose Maxims of State and Religious Principles would not permit him to leave *our Religion* and *our Liberties* long unsuppressed?

To dissipate these Fears, we may perhaps be informed of Declarations made by the pretended Regent in *Scotland* of his Father's, or his own *Intention* to preserve the Liberties and Religion of all his Subjects; — But these are Blessings too

too valuable for any wise Man to risque upon *verbal Promises* or *Protestations*. The People of *England* have as great Reason as any People in Christendom, not to put their Confidence in such *precarious Security* : It has more than once "*been weighed in the Balances, and found wanting.*" Every body that reads the *English* History, may find undoubted Evidence of the strongest Assurances being given by *Queen Mary* and *King James* the Second, of their Resolutions to protect the Religion and Rights of their Subjects ; and what Regard they paid to these solemn Declarations in the subsequent Part of their Reigns, all *England* and the World can witness.

It is needless to produce Vouchers for Facts so universally known and uncontestable. I shall only transcribe a short Remark from the Reign of *Queen Mary*, in the Beginning whereof, the Historian observes, (*Rapin. Fol. Vol. II. p. 29.*) that " Those of the Reformation, not foreseeing what was to happen, flatter'd themselves, that, content with the private Exercise of her own Religion, she would leave the Protestant in the same

“ same State she found it, or at most
 “ would be satisfied with giving her
 “ Party Liberty of Conscience: And this
 “ was what her Friends every where,
 “ and on all Occasions, took Care to in-
 “ sinuate.”

But they that amused themselves with reasoning in *this Manner*, were fatally deluded, and found too late the desperate Folly and pernicious Consequence of trusting to the Declarations of a *Popish* Sovereign, for the Security of the *Reformed Religion*.

After all that this Nation has *seen* and *suffer'd* for its *Credulity*, What Advantage can be proposed to induce us to repeat so dangerous an Experiment? Shall our Religion be preserved inviolate under *another* Government? — This Blessing we enjoy already, and have long enjoy'd, under the *Present*. — Will it be safer for us to place this sacred Deposit, for the Time to come, in the Hands of a *Popish* Prince, or in one of our *own* Communion? — Are the Liberties of *Britain*, or the Privileges of Parliament, less likely to be maintain'd by a Monarch, whose

whose Title is founded upon the Principles of Liberty, and derived from Acts of Parliament, than by those that claim a Power of Dispensing with the Fundamental Laws and Statutes of the Realm? — In fine, *Long Experience* has taught us the many and great *Advantages* that arise from the *present* Constitution, and we have *little* Reason to hope for the *same* under an *Alteration* of it, and *much* less of making our Condition, to any Degree, *better* or *happier* than it is *already*.

The Principles and the Actions of Popish Princes sufficiently discourage such vain and unnatural Hopes; and there are already Accounts from the North, which may make us dread the farther *Progress* and *Success* of that Faction. — Forcing Men into their Service, and *Shedding the Blood* of such as *refuse* to engage with them: The *private Affiliation* of a Leader of their own Party, without any legal Proceedings or Tryal, upon some Distrust or Displeasure conceived against him; and, in general, the Outrages and Violence said to be committed by some of their Commanders, are
certainly

certainly, if true, very *sad Presages* of their *future* Behaviour. If they shew so little Regard to the Lives and Liberties of their Fellow-Subjects, in the *first* Exercise of their Infant Power, what must the World expect, should they ever bring it to *Maturity* and *Perfection*?— But the important Hour draws on apace, when his Majesty's misguided Subjects must either return to their Allegiance, or oppose by Arms the Forces sent to reduce them: The dreadful Prospect of this latter Event fills every *British* Heart with the utmost *Anxiety* and *Dejection*. What a Scene of Horror! what an Effusion of *British* Blood! what a mutual Havock and Destruction of Fellow-Subjects and Relations, by each others Swords!— But let us turn our Eyes from this mournful Spectacle.—Our Enemies will look upon it with Pleasure.

In the mean Time, whether the Accounts transmitted to us, or any of them, are to be depended upon, or not, the Success of the Rebels would infallibly prove the *Ruin of their Country*, and of *themselves*; and moreover, the Scheme that they are labouring to advance,

vanee, for *introducing* and **FORCING** a *new* Government upon us, is calculated not only to extirpate the Civil and Religious Rights of *these* Kingdoms; but a final and decisive Blow is intended, and must of Consequence be given by it, to the Cause of *Liberty*, and the *Reformation*, in all Parts of *Europe*, and the Christian World.

Great-Britain has been long acknowledged and esteemed, both by *Friends* and *Enemies*, as the strongest Bulwark against Popery, and the exorbitant Power of *France*. She has been obliged to engage in expensive and bloody Wars, to prevent that Nation from becoming the *Arbiters* and *Tyrants* of *Europe*; and is at this Time deeply engaged in the same beneficial and righteous Design: Her Arms, so often crowned with Victory, have proved hitherto an insuperable Obstacle to their grand favourite Project of Universal Monarchy.

If then the Ministers of *France* could, by their subtle Artifices and Intrigues, make Use of our own intestine Divisions to subvert a Constitution, which has so long and so effectually opposed them;

and introduce in its Room a Form of Government more resembling their own both in Church and State: — Could they compel us to accept a Prince, who should be indebted to *them* for his Crown, and who must be forced (at least for *some Time*) to depend upon *their* Assistance to keep it on his Head, and to comply with the pernicious Terms which would *then* be required of him, or rather ARE ALREADY Stipulated and Granted by TREATIES to the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*: What a dreadful Interval would this afford the Court of *France* for concerting such Measures to REVIVE and IMPROVE their Commerce; to augment their Forces both by Sea and Land; to dishearten *some* of our Allies, and to weaken and oppress *others* to such a Degree, that it might never more be in the Power of *Great-Britain*, by her own Strength, or by the Help of any Alliance she should *then* be able to contract, to rescue either the Liberties of *this*, or of any *other Nation*, out of their *Perfidious* and *Enslaving* Hands?

Can any honest *Englishman* imagine, that either the *Justice* of *their own Cause*,
or

or of the *Pretender's Title*, have been the *Real* and *Principal* Motives that induced the *French* to declare War against, and excite Disturbances amongst us? Both the One and the Other of these Transactions are but *Under-Parts* concurring to promote the *main Point in View*, of rendering themselves superior to all *Force*, as well as to all *Reason*, *Laws*, and *Justice*; of Aggrandizing themselves, and reducing all their neighbouring States to a servile Dependance upon their Dictates, and the wretched Necessity of complying with whatever Terms they shall think proper to prescribe.

If any True *Briton* and Lover of his Country is convinced, that such an Execrable Scheme is formed, and advancing gradually by proper Steps; or even if he does but observe many strong Circumstances and Appearances that make him *suspect*, this is the true State of Things, is it possible he can be *unconcerned*, and make *no Opposition*, when he is in Danger of being deprived of every Thing that is noble and generous in human Society; every Thing that is dearest and most valuable to civilized People, all the

Privileges and Enjoyments which *comfort*
and *adorn* the Life of Man?

In such a Situation as this, it is obvious to infer, that the Measures necessary to be pursued for our common Safety and Preservation, plainly dictate, that every one of us ought, upon all proper Occasions, to *testify* his Affection to the true Interest of his Country, and shew his Readiness to concur in *supporting* the Constitution, with which all his Temporal Happiness is interwoven, and indissolubly connected.

Solon the wise Law-giver of the *Athenians* inserted in his Collection, a particular Statute, which makes all those *INFAMOUS*, who stand *Neuters* in a Sedition. This Law was intended to induce every one to *declare* his Sentiments, and attach himself to one Party or to the other, in Case of Civil Dissension happening in the State of *Athens*. This great Legislator 'would not have any *insensible* and *regardless* of the *Publick*, 'and securing his own *private* Concerns, 'glory that he had *no Feeling* of the 'Distempers of his Country.'

Reserve

Reserve and Silence, in those that wish well to the Commonwealth, is attended with great Inconveniences, and many Consequences that are prejudicial to the publick Good. It *discourages the Honest and Well-affected*, by making their Party appear less numerous and considerable than it really is; and being generally construed by the *Bad*, as implying Inclinations favourable to *them*, or discovering at least that such Persons are intimidated, and stand in Awe of them; it *animates*, and adds Spirit and Resolution to a Faction, who, though their Cause is the *worst*, yet frequently have this Advantage of *acting* with greater Vigour and Boldness than those that *oppose* them.

Now then, if ever, our Duty and Interest call loudly upon us to make Declarations of our Integrity and good Dispositions; and on the other Hand, the same Principles admonish us to exercise *great* Caution and Reserve in Believing, and much *greater* in Dispersing such Reports and Objections, as naturally *tend* to alienate the Peoples Affections from the pre-

sent Government, and to ripen and prepare them for a Change.

Such as are guilty of this Practice, being fully *sensible* of its Tendency, and *Designing* to work such Effects by it, are Traitors and Enemies to their Country in the highest Degree; and those, who have *no evil* Intentions, ought, at least for the present, to debarr themselves an immoderate Licence of Speech and Censure, for Fear of mis-leading others, and augmenting the Number, and serving the *Ends* of those that are *wilfully* conspiring the Ruin of their Country.

And this Restraint may, with the greater Reason and Equity, be expected under a Government that has been administer'd with *uncommon Lenity*, and punctual *Observance* of the *Laws*: A Government which *never* invaded the Rights of *one* single Subject, and against which the most Inveterate make no Objections, but either such as are entirely groundless, or in some Sort unavoidable, or, at the most, fall *vastly short* of Requiring or Justifying a total Alteration and Change in the Constitution.

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The Administration is blamed for not having taken the most prudent Measures, in *some* Cases, and for wanting Success in *others*. Some are offended that the War has not been prosecuted with greater Vigour ; others, because the Supplies granted by Parliament are large, and like to continue so.

The GENERAL ANSWER in all these Cases, (and an Answer abundantly sufficient to deter every Wise and Unprejudiced *Briton* from carrying his Resentment to such a desperate Degree, as to inflict upon himself and his Country, all the dreadful Evils attendant upon *Popery* and the Yoke of *France*) the Answer may be as follows :—

That No human Government ever *was*, or *can* be, administer'd in all its Branches, *without* any Misconduct or Miscarriage :

That the publick Proceedings are often *condemned*, by Persons entirely unacquainted with the Springs upon which they turned :

That

That the Common People are as liable to be led into *Mistakes*, or to fall into such *themselves*, in forming their Judgment of the publick Affairs, as the *Ministers of STATE* are :

That it has been the Misfortune of many popular States to distrust the *Integrity* of their Governors, *without Cause*; and upon groundless Jealousies and Calumnies, some of the *worthiest* amongst them have been driven into *Exile*; and others deliver'd over to the Hands of the *Executioner* : But, in a short Time after, when *Prejudices* came to subside, and give Permission to the Voice of *Truth* and *Reason* to be heard, the People have been heartily *ashamed* of their *Rashness* and *Ingratitude*, and endeavour'd to expiate these Crimes, by doing Justice to the *Memory* of Patriots, whose Actions were conducted with the most consummate *Integrity*, *Uncorruptness*, and a steady *Eye* to the true Interest of their Country.

To speak more particularly with regard to our own Affairs;--let the following Remarks

marks be carefully and impartially considered.

That it is impossible to prosecute a War against two such powerful Kingdoms as those of *France* and *Spain* are, without immense Charges and Expence.

That exciting Rebellion at Home, and giving Encouragement and Opportunity for Invasions from Abroad, are not proper Methods to lessen the publick Expences.

That as to our Want of better Success in the *Mediterranean*, and the Neglect of those Officers that failed in their Duty, in the Sea-Fight near *Toulon*, every body knows it is now actually under Examination, by special Order of the King, in Consequence of an Address presented to him by the House of Commons.

That our Constitution has provided a proper and legal Method for the Redress of Grievances, and bringing the greatest Offenders to Justice, without sacrificing our Liberties and our Birth-right, and

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having Recourse to the desperate Remedies of Rebellion and a Civil War : And,

That there is little Reason to believe, that these Instruments are *now* made Use of out of *Pity* to the *People*, to ease them of the *Hardships* they complain of : — But in Truth, had the Administration been ever so unblameable, and acted invariably for the *Good* of their Country ; yet still, had the same Opportunity offer'd for Exciting these Commotions, by reason of the small Number of Regular Forces that were at Hand to suppress them, our Condition would have been just *the same* as it is at present. — An Oversight (if it was such) in this Part of the publick Management, is not, I presume, in the Number of those that have OFFENDED the Enemy.

One Observation more there is, which requires our Attention before we dismiss this Subject of Complaints against the Administration ; and that is, though a Free People deserve not to be condemned for keeping a *watchful* and even a *jealous*

ious Eye over their Rights and Liberties ; yet when this Spirit has been carried to Extremities, and the unjust Suspicions of some have begot in them such an Aversion to their lawful Governors, and to their Fellow-Citizens of *different Sentiments*, that rather than continue subject to them any longer, they have called in to their Help some *Foreign Power*, such as was naturally the *Common Enemy* of their Country ; They have sometimes prevailed by their Assistance, but seldom or never failed, in the End, to find themselves the CONQUERORS, indeed, of their ENEMIES, but the SLAVES of their FRIENDS *.

In King John's Reign, the Barons of England had Recourse to France

* *Cervus Equum, pugna melior, communibus herbis Pellebat ; donec minor in certamine longo Imploravit opes Hominis, frænumque recepit : Sed postquam Victor violens discessit, ab hoste, Non Equitem dorso, non Frænum depulit ore.*

Hor.

for Assistance. The Dauphin came over with an Army : The Barons swore Allegiance to him, and the Dauphin swore to maintain their Privileges and Liberties : But the Secret of his future Intention was divulged by the Viscount *de Melun*, who upon his Death-bed declared, that the Dauphin was resolved to banish all the Barons that had taken Arms against King *John*, as Traitors to their Country, and that this Resolution was taken in a Council of sixteen French Lords, and confirmed by the Dauphin, with an Oath. (*Knighion, M. Paris.*)

This seasonable Discovery made the Barons sensible how imprudently they had acted, and how basely they had been imposed upon and betrayed. They returned to their Allegiance, and timely saved their Country from being EN-SLAVED, and made a PROVINCE to *France*.

We may still safely retain whatever different Sentiments we think serviceable and just, with regard to our private Rights and Privileges, provided we are determin'd to decide them no other
Ways

Ways than by the Laws of our Country, and by Methods consistent with and essential to the Being of our Constitution : But the Principles of Politicks, as well as of Patriotism, dictate to all Wise Men, of whatever Distinctions or Difference of Opinion in *other* Matters, that agree in this *grand* and *fundamental Point* of 'SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION,' the indispensable Necessity of their acting with Unanimity and Concord ; to oppose and pacify the present Commotions, and of sacrificing, or at least postponing their *private* Dissatisfaction for the Sake of *the whole* COMMONWEALTH, to save it from *certain* and *immediate* RUIN.

But, instead of adding any Exhortation on this Head, we may reflect with Pleasure, to what a proper Degree the Sense of our common Danger has alarmed the *English* Nation ; what Assurances they have given of their irreconcilable Hatred to Slavery and Popish Superstition ; the Dread of which Evils has roused and awakened that generous Spirit, which so often preserved the Nation

tion in Times past, and, by the Divine Blessing, shall preserve it to succeeding Times, from " a Yoke, which neither, " we nor our Forefathers were able to " bear."



F I N I S.

